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From the standpoint of economy the bee is the most useful; from the standpoint of science the most interesting of insects. Notwithstanding its small size, its organism is exceedingly complex and it performs labor that in the perfection of the technique applied outclasses anything achieved by man. Thus the comb is geometrically the most complex, artistically the most perfect piece of architecture. Mathematicians are still studying the intricate laws underlying its conception. Yet the greatest wonder consists in the fact that the bee does all this from the very moment of its birth, untrained, unaided, guided purely by an instinctive intelligence - the accumulated heritage of numberless generations of bees.

This picture traces the life work of the bee from the time it emerges from its cell, through the process of comb construction and the stocking of the hive with honey. We see myriads of them hurrying and scurrying hither and thither, frantically impelled by an irresistible instinct to attend to the larvae, the queen, the preparation of honey. We behold the formation of new hives, into which new queens are introduced. We see the worker bees obey the old bible dictum that "he who does not work shall not eat" to the letter, as they starve the drones to death and then cast their carcasses out of the hive. At first the apiarist uses the bee-veil and the smoker to ward off attacks by bees, but as his pets get to know him, he discards protective devices and lets them swarm over his bare hand, fearless of their sting.

Like all live things, bees have their enemies. Entire hives are often destroyed by a bacterial disease known as foul brood. Sometimes the bees, weakened by cold and hunger, will allow the bee-moth to enter and ravage their home.

It is needless to draw attention to the technical excellence of the film. The Edison standard of photography and film treatment is too well known to require repetition.

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